

The Bridegroom Services of Holy Week

Arranged as an *abbreviated* Readers' Service



Draft version for use in the communities of Christ the Saviour parish in Byesville, OH; St. Ephraim the Syrian Chapel in Athens, OH; and the Orthodox Christian Fellowships (OCFs) of Ohio University and Denison University.

Last revised 2016

The Senior Reader makes three metanias and says:

Sr. Rdr.: Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

Reader: Amen.

The Trisagion Prayers

Reader: Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, You are everywhere and fulfill all things. Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life, come and abide in us and cleanse us from every impurity and save our souls, O Good One!

Holy God! Holy Mighty! Holy Immortal! Have mercy on us. (3x)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O most-holy Trinity, have mercy on us!

O Lord, cleanse us from our sins!

O Master, pardon our transgressions!

O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Your name's sake!

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

All: Our Father, Who are in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Sr. Rdr.: O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

Reader: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (12x)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Come, let us worship God our King!

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and
our God!

Come, let us worship and fall down before the very Christ Himself,
our King and our God!

Reader: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of His will.
(3x)

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise.
(2x)

The Six Psalms

(Number and selection of Psalms read is at the discretion of the Senior Reader)

Psalm 3

O Lord, why have those who trouble me increased?

Many are rising up against me.

Many are saying to my soul,
“There is no salvation for him in his God.”

But You, O Lord, are my Protector,
my glory and the One lifting up my head.

I cried out to the Lord with my voice,
and He answered me from His holy mountain.

I lay down to rest and slept.
I awoke and rose, because the Lord will always protect me.

I will not be afraid of myriads of people
arranged on every side against me.

Arise, O Lord, save me, O my God,
for You have struck all who without cause are my enemies.
You have broken the teeth of sinners.

Salvation is the gift of the Lord,
and Your blessing is upon Your people.

I lay down to rest and slept.
I awoke and rose, because the Lord will always protect me.

Psalm 37 (38)

O Lord, rebuke me, but not in Your anger;
and correct me, but not in Your wrath.

For Your arrows are stuck in me
and You are pressing Your hand upon me.

There is no healing in my flesh from the face of Your wrath;
there is no peace in my bones from the presence of my sins.

For my sins have gone over my head;
they weigh upon me like a heavy burden.

My wounds stink and fester
because of my foolishness.

I became miserable and utterly dejected,
I went mourning all day long.

For my soul is filled with mockings
and there is no healing in my flesh.

I was afflicted and humbled exceedingly,
I roared from the groaning of my heart.

Lord, all my desire is before You,
and my groaning is not hidden from You.

My heart is troubled, my strength fails me;
and the light of my eyes, even this is not with me.

My friends and neighbors drew near
and stood opposite me,
and my nearest ones stood far away

Those seeking my life took to violence,
and those seeking evils for me spoke idle words
and planned treachery all day long.

But I, like a deaf man, do not hear,
and I am like a dumb man who does not open his mouth.

I became like a man who does not hear
and in his mouth has no rebukes.

For on You, Lord, I have set my hope;
You will answer me, O Lord my God.

For I said, "Let my enemies never rejoice over me
or boast over me when my feet are shaken."

For I am ready for scourges
and my pain is before me continually.

For I will confess my lawlessness
and I will be concerned about my sin.

But my enemies live and are stronger than me,
and those who hate me wrongfully have multiplied.

Those who repay me evil for good, oppose me,
because I follow goodness.

Do not forsake me, O Lord;
O my God, do not stay far away from me!

Attend to my help,
O Lord of my salvation.

Do not forsake me, O Lord;
O my God, do not stay far away from me!

Attend to my help,
O Lord of my salvation.

Psalm 62 (63)

O God, my God, at dawn I rise to You!
My soul thirsts for You.

And how often my flesh longs for You,
in a desolate land, trackless and waterless!

So I appeared before You in the holy place,
to see Your power and Your glory.

For Your love is better than life;
my lips shall praise You.

So I will bless You as long as I live
and lift up my hands in Your name.

Let my soul be filled with delight,
and my mouth will praise You with joyful lips.

When I remember You on my bed,
I meditate on You in the morning watches.

For You have become my helper,
and in the shelter of Your wings I rejoice.

My soul is glued behind You
and Your right hand holds me tightly.

But those trying in vain to take my life
will go into earth's infernal regions.

They will be delivered to the hands of the sword,
they will be the portion of jackals.

But the king will rejoice in God,
all who swear by Him will be praised,
for the mouth of those who tell lies will be stopped.

I meditate on You in the morning watches.

For You have become my helper,
and in the shelter of Your wings I rejoice.

My soul is glued behind You
and Your right hand holds me tightly.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to You, O God. (3x)

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Psalm 87 (88)

O Lord God of my salvation,
I have cried day and night before You.

Let my prayer come in before You;
incline Your ear to my petition.

For my soul is filled with evils
and my life has come near to Hades.

I am counted with those who go down into the pit,
I became like a helpless man, free among the dead,
like those who have been killed and sleep in the grave,
whom You remember no more
and who are cut off from Your hand.

They put me in the lowest pit,
in dark places and in the shadow of death.

Your anger leans hard upon me,
and You have brought upon me all Your waves.

You have put my acquaintances far from me;
they have made me an abomination to them;
I was betrayed and did not escape.

My eyes grew weak from poverty;
I cry all day to You, Lord,
I spread out my hands to You.

Will You work miracles for the dead
or will physicians raise them up so they will praise You?

Will anyone in the grave tell of Your mercy,
or will they tell of Your truth in the place of destruction?

Will Your wonders be known in the darkness
and Your justice in the land where all is forgotten?

But to You, O Lord, I have cried
and early in the morning my prayer will come before You.

Why, O Lord, do You reject my soul
and turn away Your face from me?

I am poor and in troubles from my youth;
but after being exalted, I am humbled and perplexed.

Your anger has passed over me,
Your terrors have troubled me.

They surrounded me like water all day long;
together they closed in upon me.

You have put far from me friend and neighbor
and my acquaintances because of my misery.

O Lord God of my salvation,
I have cried day and night before You.

Let my prayer come in before You;
incline Your ear to my petition.

Psalm 102 (103)

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me bless His holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all His rewards:

who forgives all your sins,
who heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from destruction,
who crowns you with mercy and compassion,

who satisfies your desire with good things,
your youth will be renewed like an eagle's.

The Lord gives mercy and justice
to all who are being wronged.

He made known His ways to Moses,
His will to the people of Israel.

The Lord is compassionate and merciful,
most patient and most merciful.

He will not always be angry,
nor will He threaten forever.

He has not dealt with us according to our lawlessness,
nor rewarded us according to our sins.

For as high as heaven is from the earth,
so great is the Lord's mercy to those who fear Him.

As far as the east is from the west,
so far has He put our sins from us.

As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him.

For He knows what we are made of,
He remembers that we are dust.

Man--his days are like grass;
he flourishes like a flower of the field.

When the spirit in him has passed, he will not exist,
and he will know his place no more.

But the Lord's mercy is from age to age
for those who fear Him,
and His justice is for their children's children.

for those who keep His covenant
and remember to carry out His commandments.

The Lord has prepared His throne in heaven
and His kingdom rules over all.

Bless the Lord, all you angels of His,
who are mighty in strength, who do His word
and listen for the sound of His words.

Bless the Lord, all His hosts,
His ministers who do His will.

Bless the Lord, all His works,
in every place of His dominion.
Bless the Lord, O my soul!

In every place of His dominion.
Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Psalm 142 (143)

Lord, listen to my prayer,
give ear to my need in Your truth.
Answer me in Your righteousness.

And do not enter into judgment with Your servant,
for in Your sight no one living is righteous.

For the enemy has persecuted my soul,
he has humbled my life to the ground.
He has made me sit in darkness
like the dead of long ago.

And my spirit desponded over me,
my heart within me was troubled.

I remember the days of old,
I meditate on all Your works,
I meditate on the works of Your hands.

I stretch out my hands to You,
my soul like parched earth thirsts for You.

Answer me quickly, O Lord, my spirit grows faint.
Do not turn away Your face from me,
or I shall be like those who go down to the pit.

Let me hear Your mercy in the morning,
for on You I have set my hope.
Make known to me the way I should go, O Lord,
For I lift up my soul to You.

Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord,
for I come running to You.

Teach me to do Your will,
for You are my God;
Your good Spirit will guide me in the straight land.

Revive me, O Lord, for Your name's sake.
In Your justice You will bring my soul out of trouble,
and in Your mercy You will put an end to my enemies
and destroy all who afflict my soul,
for I am Your servant.

Answer me in Your righteousness,
And do not enter into judgment with Your servant.

Answer me in Your righteousness,
And do not enter into judgment with Your servant.

Your good Spirit will guide me in the straight land.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to You, O God. (3x)

Sr. Rdr.: Lord, have mercy. (12x)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Sr. Rdr.: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

In the night my soul rises early for You, O God,
for Your commandments are a light on the earth.

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sr. Rdr.: Learn righteousness, you inhabitants of the earth.

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sr. Rdr.: Jealousy shall grasp an untaught people.

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sr. Rdr.: Bring more evils upon them, O Lord, bring more evils upon those
who are glorious on the earth.

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

(See handout for the day's changeable parts where indicated.
Monday's service is typically prayed Sunday evening; Tuesday's
service is typically prayed Monday evening, etc.)

Followed by... **Troparion** (For the day)

Followed by... **Kathisma Hymns** (For the day)

Followed by... **The Gospel** (For the day)

Psalm 50 (51)

Reader: Have mercy on me, O God,
in Your great mercy,
and in Your abundant compassion
blot out my transgression.

Wash me thoroughly from my lawlessness
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my sinfulness
and my sin is before me continually.

Against You only have I sinned
and done what is evil in Your sight,
that You may be justified in Your words
and win when You are judged.

For I was conceived in iniquities
and in sins my mother gave me birth.

But You love truth;
the hidden and secret things of Your wisdom
You have made known to me.

You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I shall be clean.
You will wash me
and I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear joy and gladness.
The bones that have been humbled will rejoice.

Turn Your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from Your presence
or take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation
and strengthen me with Your ruling Spirit.

I will teach Your ways to the lawless,
and sinners will return to You.

Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation.
My tongue will rejoice in Your righteousness.

O Lord, You will open my lips
and my mouth will declare Your praise.

For if You desired sacrifice,
I would have given it.
You take no delight in whole burnt offerings.

A sacrifice for God is a broken spirit;
a broken and humbled heart God will not despise.

Gladden Zion, O Lord, with Your goodwill,
and let the walls of Jerusalem be built.

Then You will delight in the sacrifice of righteousness,
in offering and whole burnt offerings.
Then they will offer young bulls on Your altar.

THE CANON

(See handout for the day's canon. Followed by...)

The Exapostilarion

People: Your bridal chamber I see adorned, O my Savior,
and I have no wedding garment that I may enter,
O Giver of Light, enlighten
the vesture of my soul, and save me.

The Praises

People: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the heavens,
Praise Him in the heights,
To You, O God, is due a song.

Praise Him, all you angels of His,
Praise Him, all His hosts.
To You, O God, is due a song.

Psalm 148:1-2

Praise the Lord from the heavens,
praise Him in the heights,

Praise Him, all you angels of His,
praise Him, all His hosts.

Psalm 148:3-14

Praise Him, sun and moon,
praise Him, all you stars and light.

Praise Him, you heavens of heavens
and you water that is above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for He spoke and they were born,
He commanded and they were created.

He has fixed them forever and ever.
He has made a law and it will not be bypassed.

Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all depths,

fire, hail, snow, ice,
the storm wind, all obeying His word,

all you mountains and hills,
all you fruit trees and cedars,

you wild beasts and all cattle,
reptiles and winged birds,

you kings of the earth and all peoples,
all you rulers and judges of the earth;

young men and virgins,
old men and children,

let them praise the name of the Lord,
for His name only is exalted;
His praise is above heaven and earth.

And He will exalt the power of His people.
This is a song for all His saints,
for the children of Israel,
for people drawing near to Him.

Psalm 149

Sing to the Lord a new song!
Let His praise be sung in the church of the saints.

Let Israel rejoice in Him Who made him,
and let the children of Zion exult in their King.

Let them praise His name with dancing,
let them sing to Him with drum and harp.

For the Lord takes pleasure in His people
and will exalt the meek with His salvation.

The saints will exult in glory,
and they will rejoice on their beds.

The high praises of God will be in their throat
and two-edged swords in their hands,

to pass judgment on the nations
and give rebukes among the peoples,

to bind their kings with chains
and their nobles with fetters of iron,

to pass judgment on them as God has written.
This glory will be for all His saints.

Psalm 150

Praise God in His saints,
praise Him in the expanse of His power.

Praise Him for His mighty acts,
praise Him for His infinite greatness.

(Followed by... **The Praises** (For the day.)

The Lesser Doxology

Reader: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of His will.

We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You,
we give thanks to You for Your great glory: O Lord, Heavenly
King, God the Father Almighty: O Lord, the Only-Begotten Son,
Jesus Christ: and O Holy Spirit.

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who take away the
sins of the world, have mercy on us. Who take away the sins of
the world, accept our prayer. Who sit at the right hand of the
Father, have mercy on us. For You alone are holy, You alone are
Lord, Jesus Christ, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day I will bless You and praise Your name forever, even
unto ages of ages.

Lord, You have been our refuge from generation to generation.
I said, "Lord, have mercy on me. Heal my soul, for I have sinned
against You!"

Lord, I have fled to You. Teach me to do Your will, for You are
my God.

For with You is the fountain of life, and in Your light shall we see
light. Continue Your mercy unto those who know You.

Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.

Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and
glorified is Your name unto ages of ages. Amen.

Let Your mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on You.

Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your statutes.

Blessed are You, O Master, make me to understand Your commandments.

Blessed are You, O Holy One, enlighten me with Your precepts.

Your mercy, O Lord, endures unto ages of ages. Do not forsake the works of Your hands.

To You belongs worship, to You belongs praise, to You belongs glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Sr. Rdr.: Lord, have mercy. (12x)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

(Followed by... **The Aposticha** (For the day))

The Trisagion Prayers

Holy God! Holy Mighty! Holy Immortal! Have mercy on us. (3x)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O most-holy Trinity, have mercy on us!

O Lord, cleanse us from our sins!

O Master, pardon our transgressions!

O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Your name's sake!

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

All: Our Father, Who are in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Sr. Rdr.: Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

Reader: Amen.

Reader: Standing in the temple of your glory, we think we are in heaven. O Theotokos, Gate of Heaven, open to us the gates of your mercy.

Lord, have mercy. (12x)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

More honorable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim: without corruption you gave birth to God the Word: True Theotokos, we magnify you.

O Heavenly King, establish the Orthodox Christians, confirm the faith, quiet the heathen, give peace to the world, place our departed fathers and brethren in the tabernacles of the righteous, and accept us sorrowers and penitents, for You are good, and the Lover of mankind.

The Prayer of St. Ephraim

Sr Rdr: O Lord and Master of my life, do not permit me the spirit of laziness, despair, lust of power, and idle talk. (*All make a prostration.*)

But give, rather, the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to Your servant. (*All make a prostration.*)

O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions and not to judge my brother, for blessed are You unto ages of ages. Amen. (*All make a prostration.*)

Then all make 12 lesser reverences, saying for each:

O God, cleanse me a sinner and have mercy on me.

The Prayer of Saint Ephraim is repeated, with one prostration at the end.

The Dismissal

Sr. Rdr: Confirm, O God, the holy Orthodox faith and Orthodox Christians unto ages of ages.

People: More honorable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, without corruption you gave birth to God, the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify you.

Sr. Rdr: O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, Who is going to Your voluntary passion for our salvation, through the prayers of Your most pure Mother; of the holy, glorious Apostles; of St. (of the temple); of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us for He is good and loves mankind.

People: Amen.